

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STUTTG 00434 091600Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 /055 W
-----034503 100644Z /10

R 091520Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL STUTTGART
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4206
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH

UNCLAS STUTTGART 0434

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB GW
SUBJ: IG METALL STRIKE VOTE

1. METAL WORKERS (IG METALL) IN NORTH-WUERTTEMBERG AND NORTH-BADEN HAVE VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY TO STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES IN AN ACTION THAT COULD HAVE THE WORKERS OUT AS EARLY AS MARCH 13. WITH THE STRONGEST STRIKE VOTE IN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG SINCE THE WAR, IN AN ELECTION INVOLVING 96 PER CENT OF ELIGIBLE MEMBERS, 90.3 PER CENT (275,737 OF 305,264) OF THE IG METALL MEMBERSHIP VOTED IN FAVOR OF STRIKING EMPLOYERS, WHOSE CURRENT 3.5 PER CENT WAGE INCREASE OFFER IS STILL FAR BELOW THE 8 PER CENT UNION DEMAND. BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG IG METALL LEADER STEINKUEHLER WILL FORMALLY PRESENT THE LOCAL VOTE TO THE UNION'S NATIONAL BOARD IN FRANKFURT ON MARCH 9, AND EXPECTS TO RECEIVE AN IMMEDIATE STRIKE SANCTION, WHICH WOULD ALLOW HIM TO CALL HIS MEMBERS OUT AS EARLY AS MARCH 13.

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2. STEINKUEHLER HAS TERMED THE VOTE'S "SURPRISINGLY STRONG RESULT" AN "IRREFUTIBLE REBUFF TO EMPLOYERS". CITING ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF SUPPORT IN RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS FOR HIGHER WAGES INVOLVING 120,000 WORKERS IN NORTHERN BADEN-WUERTTEMBERG (THOUGH SIGNIFICANTLY NOT INCLUDING WORKERS FROM THE STUTTGART AND MANNHEIM INDUSTRIAL CENTERS) STEINKUEHLER IS OFFERING EMPLOYERS A FINAL CHANCE TO SHOW

GOOD FAITH BY COMING UP WITH A REASONABLE OFFER IN THE
MARCH 10 NEGOTIATIONS WITH SOUTH-BADEN EMPLOYERS, AN OFFER
HE DOES NOT REALLY EXPECT TO MATERIALIZE. WITHOUT IT, THE
METAL WORKERS WILL PROBABLY BE OUT NEXT WEEK. MILLER

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